



Missouri Department of Mental Health

Office of Deaf Services

Interpreter Exchange Program

This interpreter exchange program is designed to assist interpreters with completing the Missouri Department of Mental Health's (DMH) Introduction to Mental Health Interpreting (MHI) training. The MHI training consists of 40 hours of instruction, including virtual mentoring classes with Robyn Dean from the University of Rochester's Deaf Wellness Center. The cost of this training is \$500 including tuition, fees, and books. DMH's Interpreter Exchange Program seeks to offset this cost for qualifying interpreters by allowing interpreters to provide no cost interpretive services in exchange for the costs of the training being waived.

Qualifying Interpreters

- Interpreters must be certified at either an Advanced or Comprehensive level by the Missouri Commission for the Deaf or Hard of Hearing and must have current licensure as an interpreter in the state of Missouri.
- An Interpreter Exchange Program Application may be submitted to the DMH's Office of Deaf Services.
- 5 Interpreters will be selected to participate in the Interpreter Exchange Program at a time, meaning once one interpreter completes the Interpreter Exchange Program, that slot will be opened to another interpreter.

Participation

- Once selected, participating interpreters will have one year (12 months) to complete 10 hours of actual interpreting time. These hours may be completed at any DMH-run facility or any contracted provider for DMH as approved by the Office of Deaf Services.
- Interpreting time will be pre-scheduled and coordinated by DMH's Office of Deaf Services, should the interpreting time be cancelled, interpreters will receive credit for the requested/pre-scheduled time.
- Interpreters will receive credit for every clock hour (60 minutes) or interpreting time provided toward the completion of their 10 hours. If an interpreting assignment lasts less than 1 hour (60 minutes), the interpreter will be paid for their time in accordance with industry standards but will not receive credit towards this program.
- Interpreters accepted into the program must track their hours along with the Office of Deaf Services to ensure all 10 hours are completed within one year. Each interpreting assignment completed for this program must be verified by signature from the facility that the assignment is completed in using the Interpreter Hour Verification Form.
- If all 10 hours are not completed or are not completed within one year (12 months), the participating interpreter will be expected to reimburse the full cost of the training (\$500) to the Department of Mental Health.
- If the participating interpreter begins this program and decides they do not wish to complete it, they may waive the remaining hours needed and reimburse DMH for the full cost of the training.
- Once accepted into the program, DMH will notify the training host of the interpreters' approval to begin the training.